

The First Mobile Phone Call (B2)

A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. How old were you when you got your first mobile phone?
2. What do you use your phone for, apart from making phone calls?

B – Listen and answer

Read these statements. Then listen (without reading) and choose the correct answer.

1. In 1973, Martin Cooper made the first mobile phone call from
 - a) his laboratory.
 - b) his car.
 - c) the street.
2. He phoned
 - a) a competitor.
 - b) an associate.
 - c) a relative.
3. The phone was
 - a) much smaller than a shoe.
 - b) much larger than a shoe.
 - c) shaped like a shoe.
4. The price of the first mobile phone to go on sale to the public was
 - a) \$399.
 - b) \$3,995.
 - c) \$39.95
5. The figure 7.33 billion refers to
 - a) the number of people with a cell phone.
 - b) the number of people with a smart phone.
 - c) the number of cell phones sold each year.
6. Martin Cooper
 - a) has stopped working.
 - b) still works for Motorola.
 - c) still works in the phone industry, but not for Motorola.

C – Read and answer

Read the article and answer the questions.

1. Why do you think Joel Engel went silent when he received Cooper's call?
2. What drawbacks did the first mobile phone prototype have?
3. How long did it take for the company to develop a mobile phone to be sold to the public?
4. How big and how heavy was the DynaTac 8000X?
5. What has changed since then in the way people see the mobile phone?
6. Why is Cooper optimistic about the future of mobile phones?

D – Learn it! Use it!

Complete these sentences with words from the glossary. (You may have to adapt the expression in some way; e.g. change the verb tense.)

1. Grandad still drives a car _____ his poor eyesight.
2. Last year we bought a crate of apples from a farmer and _____ them in our cellar.
3. While our friends were touring France, their suitcases were stolen from the _____ of their car.
4. The _____ price of laptops is lower than in the past.
5. You shouldn't use an electrical appliance if the _____ is damaged.
6. Jack is ten years old and he still can't _____ his shoelaces!

E – Ready for the B2 FIRST Certificate in English? (Reading and Use of English, Part 3)

Use the word in brackets to form a word that fits in the space given.

1. Cooper's phone call in 1973 introduced an era of _____ (CONTINUE) connectivity.
2. It was the first call made from a _____ (PORT) phone.
3. Car phones existed but they were connected to heavy _____ (EQUIP) in the boot of the car.
4. The press wrote _____ (ENTHUSIASM) about the new device.
5. In 1983, the first handheld mobile phone became _____ (AVAIL) for the public to buy.
6. At that time, it was a symbol of wealth but also of unjustified _____ (SPEND).
7. However, in fifty years the invention has _____ (REVOLUTION) our world.
8. Phones have become slimmer, lighter and more _____ (POWER).

F – Talk about it

In pairs or groups.

1. Some say teenagers had more freedom before the arrival of mobile phones. Do you agree?
2. If you had to do without your phone for several days, what would you miss most?
3. What are the advantages/disadvantages for professional people of being available all the time?
4. Martin Cooper thinks that in the future people will have their mobile phones inserted under the skin of their ears. What do you think of his prediction?

Answers

B – Listen and answer

1. c 2. a 3. b 4. b 5. a 6. c

C – Read and answer

1. Probably because he was angry that Cooper had managed to invent a mobile phone before he had. 2. It was very large, the battery only lasted half an hour and it took ten hours to charge. 3. It took ten years. 4. It was 25cm tall and weighed 790 grams. 5. Nowadays people see the mobile phone as a necessity, not a status symbol. 6. Because he believes they can improve healthcare and eradicate poverty.

D – Learn it! Use it!

1. despite 2. stored 3. boot 4. current 5. cord 6. tie

E – Ready for the B2 FIRST Certificate in English?

1. continuous 2. portable 3. equipment 4. enthusiastically 5. available 6. spending
7. revolutionised 8. powerful